

# Las Posadas: El Burro and the Miracle

By Carol Montgomery

Performance Time = about 5 minutes

## Cast (13? Unless parts doubled):

Narrator 1	Landlord #1
Narrator 2	Landlord #2
Manuel	Landlord #3
Carolina	Landlord #4
Maria	Mamá
Jose	
Gabriel	
Burro	

## CRITICAL PRONUNCIATION GUIDE:

Las Posadas—las po-SAH-das

Gracias—GRAH-see-us (Thank you.)

No hay posada--no eye po-SAH-dah (There's no room.)

Hola—OH-lah (Hi!)

Mamá—ma-MAH (mother, mommy)

# Las Posadas: El Burro and the Miracle

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**Narrator 1:** Imagine yourself on a dark night in Mexico. A knock comes to your door, but you are prepared. It's Las Posadas!

**Narrator 2:** The Hispanic Christmas tradition of Las Posadas often includes statues of Mary and Joseph on a platform. The processional reenacts the hunt for a place for Mary and Joseph to stay.

**Narrator 1:** Sometimes, especially the last night, a girl and a boy dress up as Mary and Joseph. Others will be angels.

**Narrator 2:** It's happened for years.

**Narrator 1:** But, this night it was different...

**Manuel:** I love Las Posadas! It's so much fun going from house to house and asking for a resting place for Mary and Joseph, I mean Maria and Jose.

**Carolina:** It's only fun until they say, "There's no room here--no hay posada."

**Manuel:** I know. Eight nights of "There's no room." You'd think someone would have pity on a poor pregnant statue.

**Carolina:** Manuel! It's not the statue. It's who the statue represents!

**Manuel:** I know. I just think it must be easier to say "No" to a pregnant statue than to a real pregnant lady. Can you imagine someone turning away a woman who was "great with child"?

**Carolina:** Not really. But, what could they do? It was the census and all the rooms were filled. Would you kick people out of a room AFTER they had paid you?

**Manuel:** Hmmmm...Good point. Hey, here comes Gabriel, Maria, and Jose with the burro. We're almost ready!

**Carolina:** I'm so excited. Tonight's the night! Hi, Maria! I mean hola!

**Maria:** Hola! Look at this cute burro. I think I'll call him Burrito, little burro.

**Jose:** Just don't take a bite. It may bite back!

**Maria:** Oh, no! This burrito is too nice to bite. I can see it in his eyes.

**Carolina:** He does have nice eyes. And, I love those long lashes. He's so fuzzy.

**Maria:** He's my new friend. But, I hope he likes crying babies! I hear there's a real baby being baby Jesus tonight.

**Manuel:** Looks like he'll do just fine. Time to get on Maria. The procession is ready.

**Gabriel:** Is it time for me to go to the front now as the lead angel?

**Manuel:** Yes, sir, Mr. Gabriel Angel! Your parents will tell you where to go.

**Gabriel:** They already told me just go house to house until someone let's us in.

**Jose:** All right. Maria is ready. Let's go!

**Maria:** Oh, this is a bony burrito. I hope you can carry me fine.

**Burro:** Hee-haw! Haw, hee-haw!

**Kids:** (*laugh*)

**Narrator 1:** So the procession began with singers and families traveling with Gabriel, Mary, & Joseph.

**Narrator 2:** When they got to the first house that night they heard,

**Landlord #1:** No hay posada. There's no room here. Try another house.

**Narrator 1:** They went next door and heard,

**Landlord #2:** No hay posada. There's no room here. Go away quickly.

**Narrator #2:** The next house looked promising with its lights, but again the processional heard,

**Landlord #3:** No hay posada. There's no room here. Don't waste my time.

**Narrator 1:** Finally they came to the house on the corner singing and celebrating in spite of being turned down three times.

**Gabriel:** I'll knock on the door again.

**Jose:** Do you have any rooms tonight?

**Landlord #4:** Not really, but I see she is great with child. Come in and we'll find something in the back.

**Narrator 2:** So the procession entered the house and happened to find a real baby crying in the back patio area, held by a young mother.

**Voice like a baby:** (*crying sounds*) Waa-waa—waa...

**Narrator 1:** Seeing the crying baby, the crowd from the processional suddenly hushed in disbelief...

**Narrator 2:** No one made a sound,

**Narrator 1:** For there was the burro gently walking toward the baby...

**Narrator 2:** And everyone thought they heard him humming a lullaby...

**Burro:** (*humming*) Mmmmmm, sweet baby, sleep baby.  
Mmmmmm, sweet baby, sleep.

**Maria:** (*loudly whispers*) My burrito sings!

**Burro:** (*humming*) Mmmmmm, sweet baby, sleep baby.  
Mmmmmm, sweet baby, sleep.

**Gabriel:** The baby is looking at the burro!

**Burro:** (*sing-song or singing*) There, there beautiful boy,  
No time for tears, just time for joy.  
There, there beautiful boy,  
Today's the day for joy.

**Jose:** He sings!

**Carolina:** And the baby has stopped crying.

**Manuel:** It's a miracle, a sign, and a wonder.

**Carolina:** Like Balaam's donkey, only better.

**Maria:** But, what does it mean?

**Jose:** It means the burro has stopped singing and no one will believe us.

**Gabriel:** But, we all heard.

**Maria:** (*seriously*) And, look at the baby's mama.

**Carolina:** She's crying and praying. We must ask if we can help.

**Maria:** (*to mama*) Is there anything we can do to help?

**Mamá:** No, gracias. Thank you; my baby was sick with a fever. I thought, "If only he can be like baby Jesus tonight, I know he will feel better." Now we both feel better! See! He has no more fever. And, he has fallen asleep. I will go now. God has healed him.

**Maria:** Through the song of a burro?

**Mama:** No, through the song of the Lord. El burrito wasn't really singing; I was close to him. It was the song of the Lord, like the night Jesus was born. I don't understand. But, I'm grateful.

**Carolina:** Me, too. Now we can really celebrate!

**Maria:** Piñata time!

**Jose:** Joy to the Lord!

**Manuel:** The angels sing!

**Gabriel:** Through el burrito?

**José:** No one will believe us.

## Curriculum Links (Valid in 2010)

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/lessonplan.jsp?id=67>

Scholastic lesson plan for primary grades, but ideas may be useful for older students if you change the art project.

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_tsl/archives/99-1/lesson0018.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_tsl/archives/99-1/lesson0018.shtml)

Grades K-2, but some ideas may be useful for older students—especially for a unit study on Mexico (e.g., Spanish words, songs, books).

<http://teachers.net/lessonplans/posts/4275.html>

Includes a variety of ideas useful for different grades. The main activity, although for a Spanish class could easily be adapted for any class writing in their cards “Felíz Navidad” (Merry Christmas).

<http://www.mexconnect.com/articles/1552-mexican-tradition-pidiendo-posada>

Spanish and English lyrics to the traditional song between those in the processional seeking lodging and those responding at the door.

[http://www.newcelebrations.com/12\\_Days\\_Las\\_Posados.htm](http://www.newcelebrations.com/12_Days_Las_Posados.htm)

Non-traditional tune (*Good King Wenceslas*) for Las Posadas type lyrics. Fun?

### You Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpz7vqwj6o0&feature=fvw>

Clip of authentic Las Posadas song being sung at Mexican mission.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6nwzpl-6UE&feature=related>

Traditional tune sung at Las Posadas with Spanish words.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R35yspFDsek&feature=related>

Photos of Las Posadas showing processional with donkey and luminaries.